

## **Land Stewardship Subcommittee Meeting Minutes for May 23, 2023**

### **1. The Meeting was called to order at 8:35 am by Ann Welsh.**

**Members Attending:** Ted Howard (for Mike Everngam), Marty Gorham, Gale Carey, Jim Lawson, Sally Tobias, Ann Welsh and John Carroll.

**Absent:** Larry Brickner-Wood, Mike Drooker, John Nachilly, and Mike Everngam.

**Also attending:** Sara Callaghan, Todd Selig, Rich Reine, and Kellie DeSimone.

### **2. The Agenda was approved.**

### **3. The 13 Moons of Spruce Hole Bog:**

UNH research assistant professor Alexandra Contosta, along with two graduate students, presented some of their research to develop and use technology to measure and understand the impacts of changing seasonality at the Spruce Hole Bog due to climate change.

### **3. The minutes of the March 28, 2023 meeting with corrections were approved with one abstention.**

### **4. LSSC Monthly Meeting date change:**

It was agreed that the LSSC will meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month starting on June 14<sup>th</sup>.

### **5. Stewardship Working Group Update – Gale Carey**

The Jackson Landing questionnaire findings were shared and explained. The playground does make this area unique. Some comments/suggestions included or suggested improved trail signage, eradicate poison ivy along the playground trails, improve dog control signage, and increase the land steward from one to two.

Sara noted that last month she worked with a youth group from the Community Church to brush out trails and added red tags to help denote the trail location.

Sara, Rachel and Kellie met at Jackson Landing and discussed improvements to the trail signs. Durham Parks & Recreation is planning to include signage improvements into their budget for next year.

The Oyster River Middle School, in coordination with Durham Public Works, will celebrate its annual Service Palooza on Thursday, May 25th by providing community service to help clean-up and maintain Jackson Landing and the Town Landing.

Rich noted that DPW supervisor Nick Bennion reconstructed the footbridge behind the boathouse.

The environmental monitoring station has fallen over. The owner of the station will need to be contacted for removal or repair of the station.

### **6. Poison Ivy Treatment at Jackson Landing:**

Rich Reine stated that Durham Public Works is planning to use chemical treatment to control poison ivy at some specific areas at Jackson Landing. New Hampshire Code of Administrative Rules (NHCAR) will be complied with, necessary permits obtained, and appropriate public notification will be provided.

## **7. Land Stewardship Coordinator Updates-Sara Callaghan**

The Conservation Commission approved the funding of Oyster River Trails and Maps updates and \$1,500 for native/pollinator landscaping and a bench on land adjacent to the Kenny Rotner Bridge. Sara is coordinating with two community members that have offered funding to support the project. Sara will contact dig safe and is planning get start with work at the site in June.

Doe Farm - Sara had a site walk with Arianna Spear from the Rockingham County Conservation District to discuss the buckthorn management project. The RCCD should have a proposal for buckthorn treatment to the Doe Farm trustees by Friday, May 26<sup>th</sup>.

Pike Property – Duane Hyde has indicated that the purchase closing should occur in June.

Longmarsh – The existing bog bridge on the yellow trail may be repaired or replaced as currently constructed, as part of an Eagle Scout project. This work should take place during June and July.

Fogg Easement – Sara met with the new property owners, did a routine monitoring visit, and discussed the community trail and plans to reroute the trail.

Thompson Property - Ann mentioned that one of the wood benches is damaged and needs repair and that the trails are narrow due to overgrowth.

Stolworthy Wildlife Sanctuary – On Thursday May 25<sup>th</sup> Sara will be working with ORMS students to remove some invasive shrubs and garlic mustard.

Wagon Hill Farm – Sara did a site walk with Rich and Todd to review plans for Phase-2 shoreline restoration. Sara said that some repairs are needed to the Phase-1 work that was damage during a winter storm. Rich stated that Phase-2 planning is ongoing and applications for grants are being prepared.

## **8. LSSC Goal Setting**

Endeavor to have the LSSC goals align with the goals established by the Town Council.

Such as:

Work with UNH Land use Coordinator Stephen Eisenhaure to develop a new white trail.

Conduct planning to protect public health and safety.

To work cooperatively with UNH and the other town committees and boards.

This issue will be further developed and addressed.

## **9. Committee Reports**

There are no committee reports at this time.

## **10. Bee City**

The LSSC is seeking an individual to work with the Durham Bee City USA Working Group.

Ann is keeping track of local activities that support the Bee City objectives.

## **11. The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 am.**

**The Next Meeting is Wednesday, June 14, 2023 at 8:30 am in the Town Hall Chambers.**